
DDAA HOLDS DUAL RETIREMENT CEREMONY

By: Ted B. Jennings

On September 27, 2000 LTC Rhonda Jakubik-Workman, Commander of the Distribution Depot Anniston Alabama (DDAA) held a private retirement ceremony for Tonnie and Joyce Langley. These two dedicated employees have a combined sixty-nine year's service with the Department of Defense. Mr. and Mrs. Langley began their careers as employees of Anniston Army Depot (ANAD) and subsequently transferred to the Defense Logistics Agency (DDAA) in 1992. Tonnie, the first to be hired in 1965, was followed into government service by the former Joyce Johnson in 1966. These two special people were married in 1971.

Just what makes this couple special is not their length of service; neither is uniqueness particularly found in their marriage of almost thirty years. Nearly lost to time were the circumstances that led Tonnie and Joyce to become silent leaders in federal service. They are the first man and woman to be hired through Anniston Alabama's Opportunity Center. The Center, established in 1956, provides rehabilitation, training and employment assistance to those that have disabilities. Individuals undergo an initial evaluation by the Alabama Vocational Rehabilitation Service and are then referred to the Center. After completion of a training period, employees are placed with public and private sector firms that participate in the Center's programs. The Center is seventy-five percent self-supporting and enters into contract with local businesses to perform work which includes assembly, packaging and shipping operations.

President John Kennedy signed into law Executive Order 10994 on February 14, 1962, which prompted federal agencies to pursue for employment, persons with disabilities. As a result of that order, Anniston Army Depot sent a representative to the Opportunity Center where Tonnie Langley was interviewed. An agreement was reached to give Tonnie a chance but it was understood that only if Tonnie succeeded, would others be considered. Tonnie was more than successful and the original records from the Department of the Army to the U.S. Civil Service Commission (Medical Division) still exist today as part of Tonnie's Official Personnel Folder. Joyce, accompanied by many others, soon followed and became a vibrant and effective part of the federal workforce.

Both Langleys were originally hired into the Directorate for Supply under the old wage system as WB-03 Laborers earning \$1.95 hourly. Tonnie progressed to become a Packer and ended his career as a Material

Examiner and Identifier. Joyce would transfer to the Weapons Branch where she obtained a "Sensitive" National Security Clearance and finished her career as a Material Handler.

Tonnie and Joyce have not only established themselves as fine employees but have managed to distinguish themselves in their personal lives. They are the proud and much loved parents of Dennis Langley and Wanda Langley Pointer. Wanda has added to the family, providing the Langleys with two adorable grandchildren, Sean age 11 and Jessie age 9. Dennis has attained the rank of Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America. Tonnie, after many years, remains active with the Boy Scouts as a leader and Joyce plans to spend her retirement as a volunteer in area hospitals.

On behalf of federal employees, and persons with disabilities everywhere, we extend our congratulations to the Langleys upon their retirement, but perhaps more importantly, we must extend our heartfelt thanks for their unselfish example and the enlightenment they have given to us all. God Bless!

"We look for Ability—not disability."

*Mike Almaroad
Administrator of
The Opportunity Center in Anniston*



*LTC Jakubik-Workman
presents retirement
plaque to Mrs. Joyce
Langley.*

*LTC Jakubik-Workman
presents retirement
plaque to Mr. Tonnie
Langley.*

